What is claimed is:

1. An isolated peptide having antimicrobial activity and an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

WCFZ5VCZ2RGZ3CRZ2KCRR,

Z₂RWCFRVCYZ₃GZ₂CZ₃Z₅Z₂CR,

RRWCFZ5VCZ3RGZ4CYZ4Z4CRZ1,

RZ₅WCZ₃Z₂Z₃CYRGFCZ₃Z₂Z₅CR,

RRWCZ₃RVCYZ₅GFCYRKCR, and

RRWCFRVCYRGZ3FCYRKCR;

wherein Z_1 is a basic amino acid residue or no amino acid residue; Z_2 is a basic or aromatic residue, Z_3 is a basic amino acid residue, Z_4 is arginine, valine or alanine, and Z_5 is an aromatic or aliphatic amino acid residue.